

France Is Told She Forfeits U.S. A-Tieup

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The United States told France yesterday that it no longer will have access to American nuclear weapons in Germany after French forces there leave the NATO command on July 1.

That was one of a number of points made in a formal note delivered to Paris and released in Washington. The nuclear weapons now assigned to French forces are controlled by a two-key system in which both American and French approval is needed before they can be used.

President de Gaulle's "eviction notice" for the removal of American forces from France by April 1, 1967, was rejected, as had been anticipated last week. But the United States said it would remove its facilities "as promptly as possible in view of the attitude of the French government" provided the French will agree to orderly provisions for consultation on and cancellation of all the related Franco-American agreements affecting NATO.

The note combined sharp language, firm legal posture and proposals to try to work out practical arrangements with de Gaulle to the extent that he may be willing to do so.

Even harsher in tone was an interview with Secretary of State Dean Rusk.

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State Dean Rusk in a French magazine, Paris Match, the text of which was released by the State Department. Both the note and Rusk argued that de Gaulle had acted unilaterally and without advanced consultation to tear up NATO agreements.

Rusk said the French thesis

that out-of-date agreements are no longer applicable "strikes at the very heart of the sanctity of international agreements." He noted that the United States has more than 4000 agreements with other nations, adding that "we are concerned about actions which would weaken the growing fabric of international law."

Both Rusk and the note stated that the detailed Franco-American agreements, with one exception, run for the life of the NATO treaty to which France has said it will continue to adhere. But the note said the United States was willing to pattern them all on that one exception which calls for cancellation after two years if no agreement can be reached. It was to this procedure that the note referred in discussing the necessity for an "orderly" removal of American forces.

Rusk criticized France for failing to take part in allied discussions during the 1961-62 Berlin crisis and for boycotting the current Geneva disarmament talks, adding that "certainly fragmentation within the West will only impede an ultimate East-West settlement" such as de Gaulle seeks.

Asked if he agreed with de Gaulle's thesis that the Russian threat to Western Europe has diminished, Rusk replied that if it has, it has been "because NATO has stood as a firm barrier to Soviet ambitions." He referred to the Berlin crisis again and added that "the fact that a dam has contained the flood waters over the years is no reason for dismantling it."

Rusk also denied de Gaulle's contention that the integrated NATO command structure, to which the French leader objects, could drag France into a war it does not want.

The Secretary told the French magazine that the 14 other NATO members "will not be paralyzed by the attitude of France." He said that no nation today can be wholly independent and that what the United States prefers as partners are "strong nations which are at once dependable, independent, but interdependent allies. What we have long sought is an equal partnership with a Europe moving toward unity."